

NEWS RELEASE

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EDITORS NOTE: Attached please find the updated Marion County Urban Gardens Map

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY ANNOUNCES CITY SURPASSES MORE THAN 100 URBAN GARDENS

INDIANAPOLIS –The Office of Sustainability announced today that a total of 105 urban and community gardens are located throughout Marion County. Urban gardening is a valuable way to promote sustainable agriculture, economic development and community building.

“The continued growth of the City’s Urban Gardens Program and its adoption by our many communities and businesses around Marion County demonstrates these unique collaborations can succeed, and flourish,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “This partnership provides food options where there is a need for affordable, fresh produce.”

The Urban Gardens program is a collaborative partnership between the Department of Metropolitan Development, the Indianapolis Land Bank and the Office of Sustainability that allows community groups and individuals to use Land Bank properties for growing healthy produce. Communities around the county also have adopted the idea around urban gardens and created several local gardens on their own. The Office of Sustainability worked with the Food Coalition of Central Indiana to identify locations for the gardens. The gardens are an important component to meeting the need for healthy food in neighborhoods.

The Office of Sustainability plans to partner with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to administer the Indy Food Fund. The projects will include, but not be limited to, community gardens with market stands, value chain projects, food hubs, farmers’ markets, farm-to-institutions projects, urban farms, healthy corner store initiatives, and marketing and consumer cooperatives. The Indy Food Fund is a collaborative effort by Health and Hospital Corporation, Growing Places Indy, LISC and Butler’s Center for Urban Ecology to distribute grants to food-related initiatives. The partnership will be advised by diverse representatives from the food system and broader community. Once funded, the projects will begin in the 2013 growing season.

For more information on how residents can participate in the City’s urban garden program, please visit www.indy.gov/sustainindy, follow us on Twitter at @sustainindy or like our Facebook page.

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